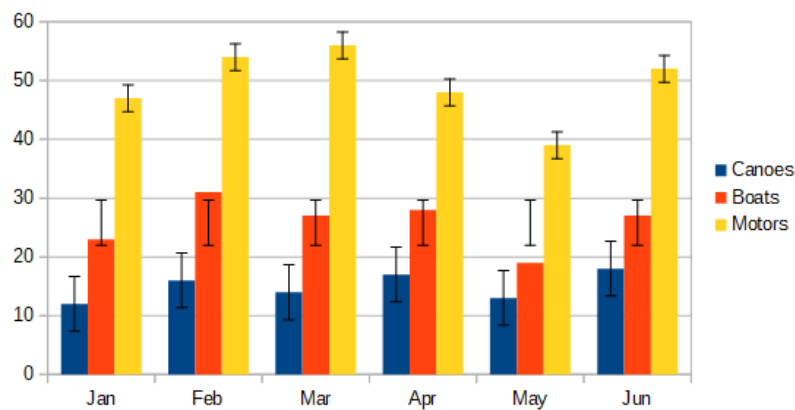# Error bars

Figure 120: Error bars showing variance (Canoes), standard deviation (Boats), and standard error (Motors)

Error bars, shown in Figure 120, can be useful for presenting data that has a known possibility of error, such as social surveys using a particular sampling method, or for showing the measuring accuracy of the tool used. They can be created for 2D charts only and cannot be created for pie, bubble, net, or stock charts.

Inserting error bars

If no data series is selected, X or Y error bars are inserted for all data series. To add error bars for all data series:

1) Select the chart by double-clicking on it to enter edit mode. The chart should now be surrounded by a gray border.

2) Go to **Insert > X Error Bars** or **Insert > Y Error Bars** on the Menu bar to open the Error Bars dialog (Figure 121). The *Line* tab is not present if you are inserting error bars for all data series; in this circumstance, an extra **None** option appears in the *Error Category* area.

3) Select the desired options. See below for more information about the options.

4) Click **OK** to close the dialog and add the error bars to the chart. If desired, click outside the chart to leave edit mode.